

Victoria Coryello

Robert Park, CA 94928

Office of the General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N W
Washington, D C 20463

2008 AUG 13 A 10 00

August 5th, 2008

MUR # 6053

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to bring to the attention of the Federal Election Commission a website that is using the information publicly available via the FEC's website in regards to campaign contributors personal records, including name, address, employer, and approximate contribution amounts to campaigns in a manner that violates FEC code 2 U S C 438(a)(4), 11 CFR 104.15. I would propose that the company named HuffingtonPost.com¹ is using information that they have gathered using your organization's public records in a commercial manner. I strongly urge you to disable the company's ability to post on the web private citizens personal records that includes sensitive information like their home address. Information such as this being posted on the Internet without my permission is a major security concern for me. In the very least, I could be the target for perpetrators of identity theft. This situation is unacceptable to me and I need you to protect my privacy rights, as my attempts to have the information be removed by HuffingtonPost.com have not been successful.

The pages containing the personal information attain what is known as a "high search ranking" on Google.com, where the results are listed as among the first. A political contributor that meets the requirements for listing on the FEC public records site has only to type their name into the search function of Google.com and the HuffingtonPost.com site will show up relatively close to the top of the page, depending upon the person's online presence in other arenas. This visibility has the power to draw large numbers of visitors to the HuffingtonPost.com website, thereby increasing the number of public views of their pages, which include various advertising banners ("banner ads"). Please see Attachment A.

Tom Harris, B.A. of English at UNC, Chapel Hill and contributing writer to howstuffworks.com, writes in his article titled "How Banner Ads Work" "Selling banner advertising space is a great way to use your site's traffic to generate revenue."²

HuffingtonPost.com is a for-profit corporation that actively pursues advertisers as seen clearly on their "Contact Us" page. Please see Attachment B. I would argue that their use of your organizations information is used in a manner that increases traffic, views and click-throughs on other pages that have banner ads. By using the links provided as seen on the top of the Personal Information Page (Attachment C), visitors to this page will see banners and potentially click those banners, thereby generating revenue for Huffington Post. This portion of their website is also used to collect additional information from visitors, using the FEC content on their site as a reason for the visitor to submit their email address, as you can see on the bottom right of Attachment D. Additionally, their use of map technology on the site is rather disturbing - I would further argue that this function violates basic privacy.

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My request is that they disable the portion of their website that contains information gathered from the FEC permanently

I look forward to hearing your organization's judgment on this matter

Regards,



Victoria Coryelle

Resources

¹HuffingtonPost.com
560 Broadway, 308
New York, NY 10012

²Harris, Tom "How Banner Ads Work " 31 August 2000 HowStuffWorks.com
<<http://money.howstuffworks.com/banner-ad.htm>> 24 July 2008

Enclosed

Attachment A Google Search Results, 24 July 2008

Attachment B "Contact Page" on HuffingtonPost.com website, 24 July 2008

Attachment C Top of Personal Information Page, HuffingtonPost.com website, 4 Aug 2008

Attachment D Bottom of Personal Information Page, HuffingtonPost.com website, 4 Aug 2008

State of California

County of Marin

Document: Letter to FEC Dated Aug 5, 2008.

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on this 5th day of August, 2008, by Victoria Coryelle, proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) who appeared before me.

Signature Uma Rajagopal



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ATTACHMENT C

[illegible]

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ATTACHMENT D

[illegible]

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